## ABSTRACT

A next-generation network utilizes a three-tier, cascading fault approach to providing emergency stand-alone (ESA) switching in a circuit-to-packet (C2P) network. Calls that are placed to destination numbers which are connected to the same local network device are completed even when connectivity with a community network level has been interrupted, while calls that are placed to destination numbers which are connected to the same community are completed even when connectivity with a gateway media controller has been interrupted.